

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 TRSE-00
OMB-01 /084 W

-----056117 141955Z /75

R 141559Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1034

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MADRID 5345

USEEC AND AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, ELAB, SP

SUBJECT: TRADE UNIONS AND THE NEW GOVT

SUMMARY. THE PSOE'S EXCELLENT SHOWING IN THE ELECTIONS
WILL MEAN THAT THE UGT WILL HAVE A STRONG VOICE IN THE
CORTES (7 OF ITS 15-MAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WERE
ELECTED), AND WILL ASSURE A UGT INPUT IN LABOR LEGISLATION
REFORM. THIS CONFIRMS IF INDEED ANY CON-
FIRMATION WAS NECESSARY-THE UGT'S POWERFUL ROLE
WITHIN THE SPANISH SOCIALIST PARTY (PSOE). ON THE COM-
MUNIST SIDE, 3 OF THE PCE'S 20 DEPUTIES ARE MEMBERS
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OF THE SWC EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT. THE PCE IS NOW
EXCEPTED TO THROW ITS CAMPAIGN MACHINERY TO HELP THE SWC
IN THE COMING PLANT COMMITTEE ELECTIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. SECRETARIES GENERAL NICLOAS REDONDO AND MARCELINO
CAMACHO OF SOCIALIST UGT AND COMMUNIST DOMINATED WORKERS
COMMISSIONS (SWC) RESPECTIVELY WERE AMONG THE 350

DEPUTIES AND 248 SENATORS PARTICIPATING IN THE JULY 13 PREPARATORY MEETINGS OF THE NEWLY ELECTED CORTES (MADRID 5331). NO LESS THAN 12 OF THE PSOE'S 118 DEPUTIES AND 3 OF THE PSOE'S 47 SENATORS HAVE DIRECT RESPONSIBILITIES WITHIN THE UGT HIERARCHY (INCLUDING 7 MEMBERS OF THE UGT'S 15 MAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE). FURTHER MORE, THE UGT ESTIMATES THAT 90 TO 95 PERCENT OF ALL PSOE CORTES MEMBERS HOLD UGT UNION CARDS. THIS CONFIRMS- IF INDEED ANY CONFIRMATION WERE NECESSARY- THE UGT'S POWERFUL ROLE WITHIN THE PARTY.

2. ON THE COMMUNIST SIDE, 3 OF THE PCE'S 20 DEPUTIES ARE MEMBERS OF THE SWC'S 23 MAN EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT AND OTHER PCE CORTES MEMBERS PRESUMABLY HAVE LESS WELL DEFINED CONNECTIONS WITH THE UNION. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE PSP MADRID SENATOR JOSE ALONSO PEREZ IS ALSO A NON COMMUNIST MEMBER OF THE SWC EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT.

3. UGT INT'L SECRETARY MANUEL SIMON (RECENT VISITOR TO THE U.S. TOGETHER WITH REDONDO) TOLD LABATT JULY 13 THAT THERE HAD BEEN MUCH SOUL SEARCHING WITHIN UGT OVER WHETHER ITS OFFICERS SHOULD IN FACT RUN IN CORTES ELECTIONS. THE CONSENSUS WAS THAT AT THIS CRUCIAL STAGE OF THE SPANISH DEMOCRATIC EFFORT, IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR UGT TO HAVE A VOICE IN PARLIAMENT. THIS WOULD ASSURE AN INPUT INTO POSSIBLE LABOR PROVISIONS OF THE NEW CONSTITUTION, CONFIDENTIAL

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NOT TO MENTION LABOR LEGISLATION REFORM IN GENERAL. THE PSOE'S EXCELLENT SHOWING HAD TAKEN THE UGT BY SURPRISE, SAID SIMON THEY HAD CALCULATED 80 TO 90 PSOE DEPUTIES AT MOST. LOOKING TO THE FUTURE, ONCE THE TASK OF THE CONSTITUENT PARLIAMENT WAS COMPLETED, UGT INTEREST IN CORTES SEATS WOULD LIKELY DIMINISH, ALTHOUGH THE UGT WOULD ALWAYS WANT SOME VOICE IN THE CORTES IF ONLY TO KEEP THE PSOE "HONEST" WITH RESPECT TO PURELY UGT TRADE UNION CONCERNS.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 MADRID 5345

USEEC AND AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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4. WE WOULD ADD THERE WERE TWO OTHERS REASONS, AT LEAST
FROM THE PARTY'S POINT OF VIEW FOR UGT PARTICIPATION IN THE
ELECTION:

(1) THE PRESENCE OF UGT LEADERS ON PSOE LISTS
MADE CONCRETE IN THE EYES OF THE VOTERS-PARTICULARLY LABOR
VOTERS THE LINKAGE BETWEEN THE UGT AND THE PSOE
AS NOTED, THE SWC WAS RUNNING LEADERS ON
PCE TICKETS, AND FOR THE PSOE/YGT NOT TO HAVE DONE
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THE SAME MIGHT WELL HAVE COST THE PARTY LABOR VOTES TO
COMMUNISTS OR ELSEWHERE.

(2) AS A GENERAL MATTER, THE PSOE VERY MUCH NEEDED
WELL KNOWN LABOR LEADERS LIKE REDONDO HEADING UP OR
HOLDING MAJOR SPOTS ON PROVINCIAL LISTS. THE PARTY JUST DID
NOT HAVE THAT MANY WELL KNOWN OR PROVEN PEOPLE TO
CARRY THE CAMPAIGN NATION WIDE, AND COULD NOT
AFFORD THE LUXURY OF PERMITTING ASSETS LIKE THEIR
LABOR LEADERS TO SIT OUT THE CONTEST.

5. THE UGT, ACCORDINGLY TO SIMON, THOUGH THE ELECTION
PROCESS HAD BROUGHT OUT THE FOLLOWING IMPORTANTS POINTS,

(A) THE ELECTION ITSELF HAD BEEN CALM, (B) EXTREMES OF BOTH LEFT AND RIGHT HAD BEEN REJECTED, AND (C) SPANIARDS HAD BEEN GIVEN A REAL DEMOCRATIC ALTERNATIVE IN THE PSOE. IT WAS ALSO NOTEWORTHY THAT THE PCE HAD FARED SO POORLY IN MOST OF SPAIN'S INDUSTRIAL SECTORS. ASIDE FROM A DEENT SHOWING IN BARCELONA (7 DEPUTIES COMPARED TO 11 PSOE), THE PCE HAD WON 4 WITH DIFFICULTY IN MADRID (PSOE11), LA PASIONARIA BARELY MADE IT IN ASTURIAS (COMPARED TO 4 PSOE) AND NOT A SINGLE SEAT IN THE INDUSTRIAL BASQUE REGION (PSOE 9). TH UGT NOW EXPECTED THE PCE TO THROW ITS CAMPAIGN MACHINERY TO HELP THE SWC IN THE COMING PLANT COMMITTEE ELECTIONS (EXPECTED THIS FALL. STABLER

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